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# MICAL NOTES

STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION  
RSITY FARM, ST. PAUL 8, MINNESOTA

No. 250

## Season of Cutting Affects Aspen Sprouting



The prolific reproduction from root sprouts or suckers commonly occurring in aspen stands clear cut during the fall and winter does not take place when logging is done at other seasons, according to studies made by the Lake States Forest Experiment Station in northern Minnesota.

With the increased demand for peeled pulpwood during the war, it became necessary to log during the spring and early summer as well as in the fall and winter so as to take full advantage of the bark peeling season. When it was observed that many clear cut aspen areas failed to reproduce well, several of these cut during the past few years were examined in the fall of 1944. As shown below, sprouting following summer logging was much less than that resulting from winter logging.

Season of logging	: Aspen		: Height	: Brush	
	: clumps	: stems	: of aspen	: stems	: Brush
	: per acre:	: per acre:	: sprouts	: per acre:	: height
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Feet</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Feet</u>
Area 1					
Summer	1941	750	1,250	6.4	30,800 6.0
Fall - winter	1941	3,400	6,100	6.9	23,300 5.0
Fall - winter	1942	5,850	11,850	6.6	12,850 3.5
Area 2					
Spring	1943	4,100	8,550	6.4	10,750 3.1
Summer	1943	2,750	4,700	3.2	8,400 2.7
Fall - winter	1943	7,100	22,850	4.4	9,500 3.0

On areas logged during the spring, suckers are not produced until mid-summer. These are not thoroughly hardened-off by fall, consequently some of them are winter killed. In the case of summer logging, suckers may not be produced until midsummer of the following year. The hazel and other brush, which in the meantime has had one summer to recuperate from logging damage, then provides severe competition for newly established aspen suckers. In contrast, suckers arising from winter logging are established the following summer. They get an even start with the brush, and because of their rapid growth, can keep ahead of the competing vegetation.

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P. J. Zehngraff, Silviculturist

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